

day. She did not eat so heartily of the tart as her husband, but she was very seriously affected. She experienced a nauseous taste like copperas, in her mouth, a tingling in the fingers, and stupor. Subsequently she lost the use of her limbs, and was still suffering severely.

Another lad deposed that he had purchased some of the berries from the hawker, and ate them, and soon after found his throat parched, and was conveyed to the hospital. A post-boy proved that after eating only half a dozen of the berries, they had thrown him into a high state of fever, and given a most unnatural redness to his face.

The hawker, who had been arrested, and who was now present, asserted that he had eaten whole pints of the berries without injury. He was remanded to prison, on a charge of manslaughter, and subsequently found guilty on this charge. —*Lancet*, August, 1846. T. R. B.

90. *Death by Strangulation, Homicide, or Suicide.*—A female, aged 80 years, was on the 11th of June, 1845, found dead, hanging from a beam in the house where she resided. This house belonged to B. Buscatel. It consisted of two rooms on the ground floor, and a loft above, which was not planked throughout, except with a few loose boards directly over the place where the bed of the female was placed. She hired one of the above rooms, and Buscatel and his family occupied the other. The body was found hanging from one of the beams in the middle of the room, by a cord, which formed a running double knot round the neck. One end was thrown six times round the beam, and the other, which was loose, was thrown over a pile of vine faggots.

The ends of the toes were about three inches from the floor, and at about four inches from them, in front of the body, was a chair turned over on its back. Behind the body, was a ladder resting on the beam, to which the end of the rope had been attached. The head of the female was uncovered; her cap was at her feet, a little to the left. The countenance was stained with blood, proceeding from the nose and ears. On that part of the cap, which corresponded to the left ear, there was a bloody spot. So also on the neckhandkerchief, in the same place. The blood was coagulated and still humid. There were no marks of blood on the floor.

The rope also was spotted with blood. One was on a part beyond the reach of the hands, and the other on the loose end, and it was observed, that to the very extremity of this, a gray hair adhered. Indeed, several gray hairs were seen sticking at different parts of the cord.

The body was completely clothed. On the left sleeve, on the back of the left hand, and in front of the petticoat, there were stains of dust, still moist; so much so, that to the latter, there were grains of oats and pieces of straw adhering. And it was observed, that at a short distance behind, where the body hung, there was a crack in the floor, and in this were seen oats and straw corresponding in appearance to those attached to the petticoat. This spot was also moist.

The right knee of the deceased was covered with a spot of dried dust, but beyond this, there were no external marks of wounds or contusions.

Many of these circumstances contradicted the idea of suicide. The female was very aged and of short stature: the knot was of a kind but little known to females; there were no marks of blood on the hands; the bloody spots observed could not have been made by her, as they were beyond the reach of her arms; while the marks of blood and dust on the dress and on the left side of the face indicated violence, previous to suspension.

On dissection, Dr. Paris found that the root of the tongue was swollen and ecchymosed, and this ecchymosis extended to the palate. The mucous membrane of the pharynx and the cellular tissue between the os hyoides and the larynx were injected with blood, while the epiglottis at its base was also ecchymosed. Now the cord could scarcely have produced these effects, as it passed below the os hyoides, and not having broken that bone, could not affect the deeper seated parts.

There were also found, on dissection, in front of the clavicle, two ecchymoses, with blood infiltrated into the cellular tissue. No external appearance indicated this, and it was therefore evident that the force producing it must have been of a soft, yielding nature, like the fingers of the two hands resting on the clavicles.

Dr. Paris, from all these facts, gave it as his opinion, that death had been caused by manual strangulation, and that the suspension was subsequently made.

There was considerable testimony involving Buscatel as the murderer, and he was found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment at hard labour for twenty years. —*Gazette des Tribunaux*, October 4th, 1845. T. R. B.

91. *Infanticide*.—The neighbours of Margaret Francon had for some time suspected from her appearances, that she was pregnant. At last a report spread that she had been delivered. The mayor of the arrondissement visited her, in order to institute a legal inquiry. She denied both, ascribed her increased size to taking cold, and from which she had been relieved by a bloody discharge. A physician was called in, who, on examination, declared that she had been recently delivered.

After continuing the farce for some time, Margaret at last confessed that she had been delivered of a dead infant, which she had wrapped in linen and concealed in her bed, and three days afterwards had buried it in the ground near her house.

The child was born on the 28th of May. It was examined on the 6th of June. It was of the full size, well made, and pronounced to have lived after birth. The head was considerably flattened transversely, and, on dissection, a quantity of blood was found in the cellular tissue which unites the skin with the bones of the cranium. This effusion was greatest in the two parietal regions. The physicians pronounced it to be the cause of the child's death.

But was this effusion the result of crime or of accident? Might not a tedious delivery produce such a compression? In the case of Margaret, this was not probable, since, in her confession, she had stated that it was neither tedious nor difficult, having continued only three-quarters of an hour, and, above all, she was delivered without assistance.

This effusion further proved that the child had lived after birth.

The testimony of a number of physicians all tended in favor of the infanticide. Dr. Molière, of Tournon, also an examiner of the body, counteracted the effect of this, by expressing a doubt whether the delivery might not have caused this effusion.

The public prosecutor, fearing that the prisoner might totally escape, abandoned the charge of murder, and asked a verdict on that of homicide by imprudence, and she was convicted of this and sentenced to imprisonment for three years.—*Gazette des Tribunaux*, Jan. 2d, 1846. T. R. B.

92. *On the Composition of Air at different heights in close apartments*.—M. LASSAIGNE has drawn the following conclusions from a series of experiments on this subject.

1. In rooms where the air is confined, and had been respired for some time without renewal, the carbonic acid expired, is not found exclusively, as some have asserted, in the lower strata

2. In accordance with the law of physics, confirmed by experiment, the carbonic acid is nearly equally diffused throughout the whole volume of confined air which has been respired by a certain number of persons.

3. The slight differences observed would lead to the inference, that the proportion of carbonic acid was, under these circumstances, greater in the upper strata, were it not that the differences may depend upon errors in the quantitative estimation of the gaseous components of the air.

4. These facts show the erroneous principles upon which some modern theories of ventilation are based; for it is clear that the *whole* mass of air which has been respired by many persons requires renewal, so that the vitiated air may be entirely expelled.

5. The uneasiness experienced from respiring the heated air in the upper part of crowded and badly ventilated theatres is due rather to its rarefaction, than to its chemical composition; for the latter is almost identical in the upper and lower strata. The acts of respiration are more (?) full and frequent when rarefied air is breathed, hence certain physiological effects are induced, which are not observed in the respiration of air at the common temperature.—*London Medical Gazette*, from *Comptes Rendus*. T. R. B.

93. *Janipha Manihot*.—The root of this plant, which in its natural state is so